

Claims

5 ~~1. A patient information system comprising:
 a computer server having a patient information forum for
 at least one patient, and each said patient information forum
 containing information regarding an individual patient;
 a publicly accessible computer output device networked to
 said computer server;
 a publicly accessible computer input device networked to
 said computer server; and
 10 a security subsystem operably positioned between said
 patient information forum and said input device.~~

15 ~~2. The patient information system of claim 1 wherein said
 patient information forum is subdivided into a plurality of levels,
 and a different portion of said patient information forum being
 available at different ones of said plurality of levels; and
 said security subsystem being operable to limit access to
 said patient information forum to a predetermined group of
 persons, and limit access to different ones of said levels to
 20 subsets of said predetermined group of persons.~~

25 ~~3. The patient information system of claim 2 wherein said
 predetermined group of persons includes third party individuals
 identified by a particular patient to which said patient
 information forum relates, and said third party individuals
 include relatives of said particular patient.~~

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SECTION 1

4. The patient information system of claim 1 wherein a particular patient has an ailment; and

5 said patient information forum for said particular patient includes a link to a database having information regarding said ailment.

6. The patient information system of claim 1 wherein said patient information forum includes a location for dialogue.

7. The patient information system of claim 1 wherein said computer server is an Internet server; and

said patient information system has an Internet address.

8. The patient information system of claim 1 wherein said security subsystem includes an assignment of passwords to a predetermined group of persons that are approved for access to said patient information forum of a particular patient.

9. A method of exchanging information regarding a patient comprising the steps of:

establishing a patient information forum for a particular patient on a computer server;

networking said computer server into a publicly accessible computer network; and

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limiting access to said patient information forum to a predetermined group of persons.

5 9. The method of claim 8 wherein said establishing step includes a step of dividing said patient information forum into a plurality of levels; and

said limiting access step includes a step of limiting subsets of said predetermined group of persons to different ones of said levels.

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10. The method of claim 8 further comprising the steps of: identifying said predetermined group of persons; and assigning a password to each person in said predetermined group of persons.

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11. The method of claim 8 wherein said establishing step includes a step of providing a location for dialogue in said patient information forum.

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12. The method of claim 8 wherein said particular patient has an ailment; and

said establishing step includes a step of providing a link in said patient information forum to a database having information regarding said ailment.

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13. The method of claim 8 wherein said networking step includes a step of providing a patient information system with a Internet address; and

5 networking said computer server to at least one Internet server.

14. The method of claim 8 further comprising the steps of: networking a special needs computer to said computer server; and

10 providing said special needs computer with at least one of a visually impaired computer interface, a touchscreen computer interface and a voice recognition computer interface.

15 15. The method of claim 8 further comprising a step of providing said patient information forum with a bulletin board location having new information added to said patient information forum.

20 16. A software program comprising:
 means for establishing a patient information forum on a publicly accessible computer network;
 means for limiting access to said patient information forum to a predetermined group of persons; and
 means for posting information regarding a particular
25 patient on said patient information forum.

17. The software program of claim 16 wherein said means for limiting includes:

means for requesting a password; and

means for evaluating a password.

18. The software program of claim 16 further comprising means for enabling a dialogue among said predetermined group of persons.

19. The software program of claim 16 wherein a particular patient has an ailment; and

means for linking said patient information forum to a database having information regarding said ailment.

20. The software program of claim 17 wherein said means for limiting access includes a means for creating gradations of access dependent upon evaluation of said password.

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